

Subject: Comments on draft 2006-2008 STIP
From: "John Erlich, Sr." <cityplanner@otz.net>
Date: Fri, 30 Dec 2005 09:38:27 -0900
To: DOT_STIP@dot.state.ak.us
CC: "Martin, Derek J Proj. Mgr." <kotzengs@otz.net>

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Donna,

I will continue trying to send by fax the copy that has Herman's signature.
Earlier attempts this morning to send the fax did not succeed-there may be
problems with the telephone system.

John Erlich, Sr.

Comments on draft 2006-2008 STIP.doc

Content-Type: application/msword
Content-Encoding: base64

December 30, 2005

Donna Gardino, Area Planner
State of Alaska, DOT&PF
Northern Regional Planning Office
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Subject: 2006-2008 – Public Comments

Dear Ms. Gardino,

Thank you for this opportunity for comments from the City of Kotzebue on the draft 2006-2008 STIP.

The current draft of the upcoming STIP describes two projects for Kotzebue:

Cape Blossom Road-- S2M January 2006 funding
S5M Earmark

Shore Avenue Rehabilitation & Erosion Control--\$5.9M

The final draft should include a third project that involves **paving Fourth Street/Turf St/Otter Street/Ptarmigan Way**. It is well-known that Kotzebue experiences chronic problems with high levels of airborne dust. Past road paving projects have helped the City address this problem. Although past paving work has helped, additional paving is necessary in order for the City to continue addressing the persistent dust problem.

The draft STIP shows 2009 as the start date for construction on the Shore Avenue Rehabilitation project. The final STIP should describe a start date of 2007 or, at the latest, 2008. Shore Avenue has been eroding away for years. In recent years, storm surges have accelerated this process, putting at grave risk both public property (streets, utilities, etc.) and private property in this densely inhabited part of town. Each year Kotzebue has been applying for emergency relief funds from FEMA to address storm damages, but until Shore Avenue is rehabilitated, erosion and storm surges will continue to keep several occupied homes, private properties, and public assets at high risk.

On a positive note, it is good to see the Cape Blossom project included in the draft. The final draft should keep this project, as described in the draft.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft 2006-2008 STIP. Please feel free to contact me with your questions and comments.

Sincerely,

Herman Reich
City Manager